

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of June 25 - June 29, 2007**

1. Maryland Municipal League Convention: The annual convention of Maryland municipal officials was held Sunday through Wednesday this week in Ocean City. Councilmembers attending were Kathy Porter, Bruce Williams, Colleen Clay, Terry Seamens and Reuben Snipper. Also attending were City Manager Barbara Matthews, Community and Government Liaison Suzanne Ludlow, Housing and Community Development Director Sara Daines, and Assistant City Clerk Irma Andia. The City of Takoma Park exhibit booth highlighted notable sites and businesses in different areas of the City. Convention workshops included ones on urban tree programs, small town success stories, multi-family housing issues, gang problems, municipal legal issues and effective meetings. Networking with State and other municipal officials is a primary benefit of the conference each year. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. 10th Anniversary of Unification: July 1, 2007 will be the tenth anniversary of the day the Montgomery/Prince George's County line was moved, placing all of the City of Takoma Park into Montgomery County. To celebrate, there will be a cake and punch reception before the Council meeting on July 2nd. If you were active in convincing the State Legislature to allow the City to unify, lived in the Prince George's County side of Takoma Park when unification occurred, or just want to celebrate this important day in Takoma Park's history, stop by at 6:45 pm on July 2nd. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

3. Jackson Boyd Playground: The second meeting regarding Jackson Boyd Playground took place on June 28. Those present reviewed two playground design options developed by the consultants, indicated preferences and made general recommendations about color scheme. The consultants will develop a final plan based on that input. A final meeting will take place to review plan in late July. (*Public Works*)

4. The Chief in Meetings: On June 26, Chief Ricucci attended the Business Watch meeting with CSAFE in Langley Park, Maryland. On June 27, Chief Ricucci was interviewed by the Washington Times on the immigration issue, and on June 28, the Chief attended the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission meeting in Rockville, Maryland. (*Police*)

5. Officers in Training:

- From June 25 to 27, Cpl. Roush, Cpl. Erwin, Pfc. Fields, Pvt. Jordan, D/Cpl. Cannatella, D/Cpl. John, Sgt. Skibicki, Pfc. Pedersen, Pvt. Smith and Pvt. Donovan attended training for Packet Writer and Packet Cluster/Remote CAD in Germantown, Maryland.
- From June 27 to 29, Cpl. Carter, Cpl. Rodriguez, Pfc. Mueller, Cpl. Wolff, Pvt. Quante, Pfc. Butler, Cpl. Largent, Pvt. Barber, A/Sgt. Poole, Capt. Coursey and D/Pfc. Conrad attended the same training session, also in Germantown.
- On June 28 and 29, Pfc. Fields and Pfc. Black attended training for Basic Drug Identification for Patrol Officers in Sykesville, Maryland. (*Police*)

6. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 66 traffic stops this week, 56 of which resulted in written citations and three vehicle impounds. (*Police*)

7. **Police Awards:** On June 28, Takoma Park Police Department honored members of the Department for their service and commitment to law enforcement at the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet which was held at the University of Maryland. (*Police*)

8. **CSAFE:**

- On the evening of June 26, CSAFE facilitated a successful meeting at Hillwood Manor Apartments with nine residents. As a result of the meeting, the community decided to hold an annual block party to build a sense of community cohesiveness and possibly start a Neighborhood Watch. They will begin to hold monthly meetings.

- Also on June 26, CSAFE facilitated their second Business Watch meeting in collaboration with the City of Takoma Park Department of Housing and Community Development. The business community discussed their crime-related concerns with the Takoma Park Police Chief and the Prince George's County Police. Representatives from the PIIT (Public Inebriate Initiative Team) and the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development were also in attendance. The next meeting will be held in July.

- On June 26, CSAFE sponsored their second Joint Bike Patrol with Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Takoma Park Police. Officers from the three jurisdictions conducted high-visibility bike patrols throughout the Takoma-Langley Crossroads and beyond to deter crime and reduce resident fear of crime. Officers made 25 citizen contacts and 12 subject stops for loitering, public intoxication and trespassing. Two citations for possession of an open alcoholic beverage were issued. These joint efforts are a great way to increase police visibility in the community and leverage departmental resources in a targeted geographical area. The next Joint Bike Patrol will be conducted in August.

- On June 29 at 2:30 pm, a Langley Park Weed and Seed Steering Committee meeting will held at the Langley Park Community Center. In collaboration with the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, CSAFE will be leading the meeting. This meeting will be held to encourage more community resident and stakeholder support for the upcoming Langley Park Weed and Seed grant application. (*Police*)

9. **Camp Successes:** The Recreation Department opened its 2007 Summer Camp season this week. Extreme Horizons, at full capacity, took the participants to the D. C. Aquarium, Folklife Festival, mountain biking, and Hershey Park. The Creative Adventures and Recess camps had 51 participants registered. They experienced the world of animals with the Takoma Park Library and Mad Science, and ventured to the Maryland Science Center and Long Branch Pool for some more excitement. Next week's Adventure is *All About Me!*, a fun and unique way to look at yourself. (*Recreation*)

10. **The New Director of Montgomery County Recreation:** The Recreation Director and Assistant Director hosted a small delegation from Montgomery County Recreation at the Community Center this week. The new Director of Montgomery County Recreation, Gabe Alborno, was accompanied by five of his staff members as they received a tour of the Community Center. They were interested in the programmatic aspects of the various rooms with an emphasis on the Computer Learning Center. Library staff shared their operational experiences with the group. Brief discussions took place about potential partnerships and it was agreed that these opportunities would be discussed at future meetings. (*Recreation*)

11. **What's on TV and the Web?:** The July Newsletter is now available online at takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter/2007/july07.pdf. City TV covered the Poetry Series and Police Awards last night, June 28, 2007. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the unification the documentary, One City, One County: The Unification of Takoma Park will be airing on City TV on July 10, 11, 27, 28 and 29. It will also be available for viewing on the web later next week. City TV crews will be covering the Independence Day parade on Wednesday, July 4, 2007. Viewers can revisit the 2006 parade airing on City TV on July 3, 4 and 30. (*CityTV*)

12. **Summer Quest Program:** The Library's annual Summer Quest program (created by Library Assistant Dave Burbank) has gotten off to a roaring start, with more than 120 kids signed up. The Takoma Park Md. Library is the only library in Maryland that does its own summer reading program and, this year - for the first time -- Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School are using our Summer Quest as their summer reading program. (*Library*)

13. **Libraries'R'Us:** The Library's first program geared to babies has just finished up its spring session. Fifteen babies under one month old and their parents came for four Wednesdays in June to learn rhymes and fingerplays and get information about reading to little ones. The program will be offered for four weeks once each season; the next session will begin in September. (*Library*)